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SIMPLE FAMILY PRAYERS

47. 1519.

SIMPLE FAMILY PRAYERS

INTENDED FOR THE USE OF

THOSE CLASSES WHOM IT HAS PLEASED GOD TO PLACE IN A HUMBLER POSITION THAN THEIR MORE FAVOURED NEIGHBOURS.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.—1 THESS. v. 17, 18.

Draw nigh unto God, and He will draw nigh unto you.—JAMES iv. 8.

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MDCCCXLVII.

T. C. JOHNS,
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TO THE

PRAYERFUL AND PRAYERLESS

This Little Book

IS DEDICATED,

WITH THE SINCERE HOPE

THAT THE FORMER MAY FIND IT A COMFORT,

AND THAT BY IT

THE LATTER MAY BECOME ACQUAINTED

WITH JOYS WHICH TO THEM HAVE HITHERTO

BEEN UNKNOWN.

The salt preserveth the sea, and the saints uphold the earth;

Their prayers are the thousand pillars that prop the canopy of nature.

Prayer is a creature's strength, his very breath and being;

Prayer is the golden key that can open the wicket of mercy;

Prayer is the slender nerve that moveth the muscles of Omnipotence.

Wherefore, pray, O creature, for many and great are thy wants;

Thy minds, thy conscience, and thy being, thy rights commend thee unto prayer;

The cure for all cares, the grand panacea for all pains.

So then, God is true, and yet He hath not changed:

It is He that sendeth the petition, to answer it according to His will.

M. F. TUPPER.

PREFACE.

My Dear Friends,

I have written this little Book for you from a bed of sickness, from which I shall never rise; and probably ere it falls into your hands my spirit will have entered that eternity of rest, and peace and happiness, which I would so strongly urge you to seek after. Oh! let my words come to you with the force of words from another world, despise them not. "So run that you may obtain; think of what is offered you: A crown of glory; a mansion in the heavens; a home with the saints; an eternity of God's immediate presence; everlasting bliss.

Behold, now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation. *2 Cor.* vi. 2.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in and sup with him, and he with me. *Rev.* iii. 20.

You hear Christ's gracious offers. Oh, then, open to Him your doors—receive Him into your hearts. He will shew you the path of life; in His presence is fulness of joy; and at His right hand there are pleasures for evermore. *Ps.* xvi. 11.

Oh for that bright and happy land,
  Where far amid the blest,
The wicked cease from troubling,
  And the weary are at rest.
Where friends are never parted,
  Once met around Thy throne,
And none are broken-hearted,
  Since all with Thee are one.

The object in view in presenting this little Book to the Public, is to form a help to prayer to those classes whom it has pleased God to place in a more humble position than their more favoured neighbours, and within whose reach the same opportunities of education and improvement have not been placed.

Each prayer is preceded by a few verses of praise in the language of Scripture, which would help to compose the mind, and collect the thoughts, for the solemn act which is to follow. A small portion of Scripture should be read by the Head of the family, either before or after the prayer, and if the hymn would occupy more time than can always be conveniently spared from the morning duties, it may be omitted; should there be children in the family, singing the hymn would close the evening pleasantly. The separate texts which are put at the end of each, morning and evening, are intended to be chosen one for each

day to commit to memory, that it may serve as a motto during the day to preserve a healthful state of mind. As all the prayers are written for family use, a morning and evening prayer for an individual has been placed at the end, together with some prayers for little children, who are old enough to begin to pray to their Father which is in heaven, as soon as they are capable of making all their wants clearly known to their earthly father. Repeating a simple hymn before they begin, will, in a measure, prepare and compose their infant minds for the solemn duty, of those which are too long a part or even a verse might be repeated at a time. The Scriptures should never be read without the Divine teaching and blessing having been previously asked, otherwise no blessing can be expected—therefore short and suitable prayers have been affixed.

January, 1847.

ADDRESS.

To you the possessor of this little Book, and to you who may chance to lay hands on it, I would say somewhat on the privilege of prayer; with the sincere and humble hope that when you have attentively read what I am going to say, you may know how to value, and how to use the precious privilege.

There are two kinds of prayer: Public with your family, or in church; and Private, alone in your room, or in the busy walk of daily life, when the heart is silently lifted up in prayer, and you are alone with

your God, unknown to the throng who may surround you.

Of Public Prayer, I would first speak. All you who believe that there is a God, a just God, an all-seeing God, a prayer-hearing God, though, an easily offended God, who, though "he sendeth his rain on the evil as on the good,"* and permits "the tares to grow with the wheat until the harvest,"† yet has His day of reckoning. All who believe there is such a God, (and you can all read your Bibles to be sure of the fact,) must see the great necessity for entreating *that* God to forgive your sins, not for *your* sake, but for that of his Son Jesus Christ, who died for man, "the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God."‡ You must see the infinite import-

* Matt. v. 45. † Matt. xiii. 30. ‡ 1 Peter iii. 18.

ance of being reconciled to that God, through the mediation of his Son our Saviour, that at the last great day, you may hear the invitation promised to those who love him, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you, from the foundation of the world."* And this kingdom, or "mansion,"† as it is spoken of by St. John, will be your habitation for eternity, —think of that word, who can understand it? it is like a circle, without beginning and without end. Happiness for ever will be your lot, should these words be addressed to you; but if they should not, could you bear to think of an eternity in hell, misery and torments without end? Consider this before you neglect or reject your privileges. Think of what importance it is, that you

* Matt. xxv. 34. † John xix. 1.

should begin the day at peace with God; strengthened by the outpouring of his Holy Spirit, to overcome the trials and temptations it may bring, therefore collect your family before you separate to your various occupations for the day; remembering that there is an express promise to those who join together in worshipping the Father; Jesus has said "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them,"* and again, in the preceding verse, we find this precious promise, "If two of you shall agree touching anything ye shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

Those who are in the habit of attending Church, must have felt the benefits to be derived from the hallowing effects of

* Matt. xviii. 20.

that holy ordinance, for even should the sermon not be such as they can understand, yet the hearing of the Psalms and of the beautiful Prayers of the Church, will leave a solemn and subdued feeling on their minds well suited to the holiness of the day. If you go to Church with the earnest desire to worship your Creator in spirit and in truth, you cannot but feel that you are really in the house of God, in the presence of your heavenly Father; that he is near, very near, to hear your petitions, to grant you strength to keep your promises, and to enable you to lead a new life.

To you who are not in the habit of attending Church, I would say, what prevents your going? Are not the Church doors flung open Sunday after Sunday, do not the bells ring out merrily the cheerful

invitation? Come, come; Then why not go? You have some excuse,—you have no seat, —you do not like the preacher. Ah! set aside these trifling reasons; come, try join your prayers, however feeble, to those of God's children, and you shall feel that He himself is there.

Of Private Prayer I have perhaps less to say; all must feel, who have ever tried, the great benefit to be derived from even a few minutes spent alone with God, confessing to him, and to him alone, the coldness of the heart, the weakness of the will, and the want of power to do that which is right; entreating forgiveness for Christ's sake, for all that you have done amiss; praising him for his mercies, and imploring his Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, to dwell in you; and you will rise from

your knees strengthened to meet the hardships and temptations of your lot. But in speaking thus, you must remember that I suppose myself addressing those who are in earnest, not those who because they have been told it is right, kneel down merely as a matter of form, before they leave their room and repeat a few words of prayer. To such I would say, Beware!—far better make no pretence, than deliberately kneel down to mock your God, for such lip service is but mockery. What blessing can you expect to obtain, when by asking for it in such a listless, careless manner, you evidently wish for none. God does not care how few the words, so long as they are earnest and sincere, of this we have many examples in Scripture; the Publican in the parable, only said, "God be merciful to me

a sinner!"* and we are told "he went down to his house justified" rather than the rich Pharisee, who prayed a long self-righteous prayer. The father of the sick child said, "Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief." † This prayer was earnest though short, and was answered immediately. We must not, however, expect that *all* we ask we shall obtain, nor that all our prayers are to be answered directly. Were we to look for this, we should soon be disheartened, for God often delays answering prayer, to test our faith, and try whether we are willing to trust him; this instead of discouraging should only make us more earnest and more fervent.

Do you recollect a verse in the Bible, "Draw nigh unto God, and he will draw nigh unto you?" ‡ Should you not like to

* Luke xviii. 13. † Mark ix. 24. ‡ James iv. 8.

have God near you? if so, whatever your employment may be, let a silent prayer arise in your heart, and it will be answered by Him "Who seeth in secret."* Bring all your joys and sorrows before your heavenly Father; when very happy, lift up your rejoicing heart in gratitude to him, from whom "cometh down every good and perfect gift." Should sorrow overwhelm you, recollect that "He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief:"† he can feel for you and sympathize with you. He has said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."‡

In speaking of prayer, I must not forget to mention the great privilege of intercessory prayer, that is, prayer for others: in being

* Matt. vi. 4. † Isa. liii. 3. ‡ Matt. xi. 28.

able to intercede for those we love, we have a great means of good to all. We are commanded to pray even for those who "hate and despitefully use us."* When we see those who are dear to us, acting in a manner which we know must grieve and offend God, and when they refuse to listen to our remonstrances, all we can do, is to pray earnestly, that God will mercifully change their hearts; and though we may long watch in vain for any change, yet we may rest assured that in God's good time the change *will* come, for we are told that "the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much,"† and for this reason, we often ask our Christian friends to pray for us, and also desire the prayers of the Church. We often see very striking instances of

* Matt. v. 45. † James v. 16.

prayers being answered years after they were offered, in the case of parents of ungodly children; perhaps during their lifetime they may not have had the satisfaction of seeing them turn from their evil ways, but the time does come when these prayers are answered, and fully answered too. This should teach us "always to pray and not to faint."*

I have tried to show you the value of public and private prayer; I would now earnestly entreat you to consider well before you set aside or refuse such precious offers. What can Christ do, more than he has done? He has said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."† "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall

* Luke xviii. 1. † Matt. xi. 28.

be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."* "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink."† "The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth, say, Come. And let him that is athirst, come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."‡ "Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out."‖—That heart must indeed be hard that can resist invitations such as these!—Your sins blotted out, if you will but come and cast yourself upon his mercy. There is no such thing as putting off making your peace with God. If, when he offers, you reject; when, wearied of this world, you wish to accept his offers of salvation, he will hide

* Isa. i. 18. † John vii. 37. ‡ Rev. xxii. 17.
‖ John vi. 37.

his face; for he will not always "strive with men."* Have you thought that to-night it may be said to you, "This night thy soul will be required of thee?" and have you thought where you would like your eternity to be spent? These are very awful questions —of more importance than even life itself. We are told that the longest lifetime on earth is but as a *moment*, when compared with *Eternity*. What, then, must Eternity be! Oh! think well of this:—many have thought of it when only *too* late.

Pray without ceasing. 1 THESS. v. 17.

What various hindrances we meet
In coming to a mercy-seat!
Yet who that knows the worth of prayer,
But wishes to be often there?

* Gen. vi. 3.

Prayer makes the darkened cloud withdraw;
Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw;
Gives exercise to faith and love;
Brings purest blessings from above.

Restraining prayer, we cease to fight;
Prayer makes the Christian's armour bright:
And Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his knees.

While Moses stood with arms spread wide,
Success was found on Israel's side;
But when, thro' weariness, they failed,
That moment Amalek prevailed.*

Have you no words? O think again;
Words flow apace when you complain,
And fill your fellow-creatures' ear
With the sad tale of all your care.

Were half the breath thus vainly spent,
To Heaven in supplication sent,
Your cheerful song would oftener be,—
"Hear what the Lord hath done for me!"

* Exod. xvii. 11, 12.

SIMPLE FAMILY PRAYERS.

SUNDAY MORNING.

THIS is the day the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. *Ps.* cxviii. 24.

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; and worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. *Ps.* xxix. 2.

O LORD, open Thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. *Ps.* li. 15.

LET US PRAY.

O Lord God Almighty, we kneel before Thee, desiring to begin this day and this week with Thee. Help us, O Lord. Pour

out Thy Spirit upon us. O let a solemn sense of Thy presence be upon our minds, that, while we pray with our lips our hearts may be with Thee also. We come before Thee with humility and fear, deeply feeling how unworthy we are to be numbered with Thy children, for we have grievously sinned against Thee. Of ourselves we can do no good thing. But Thou hast promised to those who seek Thy help and Thy strength, that they shall be able to "do all things" * Oh! give us now a hearty desire for this help, that it may be well with us.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for the opportunities which we are this day invited to enjoy of hearing and reading Thy blessed Gospel. O give us grace to attend to Thy Word, enable us to understand it, and make

* Phil. iv. 13.

us more anxious to improve by it, that the sermons which we hear, and the knowledge which we have, may not rise up in judgment against us in the last great day. Help us to keep this Sabbath holy, resisting temptation, through Christ who helpeth us, for Thou hast spoken dreadful words against those who break Thy Sabbaths.*

O Lord God, who regardeth not the proud, but giveth grace to the poor and humble, graciously be with us this day, fill our hearts with love to Thee and love to all our fellow creatures, and when we feel angry or irritable, may we remember and try to follow the example of our blessed Saviour, for even "when He was reviled, He reviled not again; and when He suffered, threatened not."

* Ex. xx. 10—xxxi. 14—16. Neh. xii. 15—19. Isa. lviii. 13, 14.

O Lord, send the light of Thy saving Gospel into the hearts of the poor heathen, and to such as know not Thy name, and hasten the time when they shall all know Thee from the least to the greatest, and shall acknowledge Thee for the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

[See page 107.]

His compassions fail not. They are new every morning. LAM. iii. 22, 23.

New every morning is the love
Our wakening and uprising prove;
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,
Restored to life, and power, and thought.

New mercies each returning day,
Hover around us while we pray;
New perils past, new sins forgiven,
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,
As more of heaven in such we see:
Some softening gleam of love and prayer
Shall dawn on every cross and care.

The trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we ought to ask;
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us, daily, nearer God.

Only, O Lord, in Thy dear love
Fit us for perfect rest above,
And help us this, and every day,
To live more nearly as we pray.

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. *Rev.* ii. 7.

The Lord is my defence, and my God is the rock of my refuge. *Ps.* xciv. 22.

Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne, mercy and truth shall go before thy face. *Ps.* lxxxix. 14.

Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God. 1 *Pet.* iii. 18.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. *Prov.* iii. 5.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. *Prov.* iii. 5.

Boast not thyself of to-morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. *Prov.* xxvii. 1.

If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink. For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee. *Prov.* xxv. 21, 22.

SUNDAY EVENING.

I will call upon God, and the Lord shall save me. Evening and morning will I pray and cry aloud, and he shall hear my voice. *Ps.* lv. 16, 17.

God is our refuge and strength; a very present help in trouble. *Ps.* xlvi. 1.

I will both lay me down in peace and take my rest; for it is thou, Lord, only that makest me to dwell in safety. *Ps.* iv. 8.

LET US PRAY.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we come before Thee this evening to acknowledge Thy great goodness to us in having permitted us to hear preached the Gospel of Thy grace, and the invitations of our Saviour. We bless Thee for Thy Word,

which is as a light to our feet, and a lanthorn to our paths. But we desire most to bless Thee for our hope of peace with Thee, through the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. O make us more anxious to obey Thy commands, that we may glorify Thee in our bodies and in our spirits, which are Thine. We desire to thank Thee for Thy mercy to us in having cast our lot in a Christian country. O make us more anxious to shew forth our gratitude, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days. Grant that the Sabbath now closing may promote Thy glory; and bless, we beseech Thee, what we have this day heard to the eternal profit of our souls.

[See Page 109.]

Abide with us; for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. LUKE xxiv. 29.

'Tis gone, that bright and glorious blaze,
Fast fading from our anxious gaze;
Yon mantling cloud has hid from sight,
The last faint pulse of quivering light.

Sun of my soul! Thou Saviour dear,
It is not night if Thou be near:
Oh! may no earth-born cloud arise
To hide Thee from Thy servant's eyes.

When the soft dews of kindly sleep
My wearied eyelids gently steep,
Be my last thought, how sweet to rest
For ever on my Saviour's breast.

Abide with me from morn till eve,
For without Thee, I cannot live:
Abide with me when night is nigh,
For without Thee I dare not die.

The rulers of this Christian land,
'Twixt Thee and us, ordained to stand,
Guide Thou their course, O Lord, aright,
Let all do all, as in Thy sight.

If some poor, wandering, child of Thine,
Have spurned, to-day, the Word Divine,
Now, Lord, the gracious work begin;
Let him no more lie down in sin.

Watch by the sick, enrich the poor,
With blessings from Thy boundless store;
Be every mourner's sleep to-night,
Like infants' slumbers, pure and light.

Come near, and bless us when we wake,
Ere through the world our way we take:
Till in the ocean of Thy love,
We lose ourselves in Heaven above.

Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. *Matt.* x. 32.

God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. 1 *John* iv. 11.

The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. *Rom.* viii. 18.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 1 *John* iv. 11.

We love him, because he first loved us. 1 *John* iv. 19.

He that walketh uprightly walketh surely; but he that perverteth his ways shall be known. *Prov.* x. 9.

The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it. *Prov.* x. 22.

Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth; much more the wicked and the sinner. *Prov.* xi. 31.

MONDAY MORNING.

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not; they are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness. *Lam.* iii. 22, 23.

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. *Ps.* xc. 12.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name. *Ps.* ciii. 1.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. *Ps.* ciii. 2.

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation. *Matt.* xxvi. 41.

LET US PRAY.

O God, who art mercifully pleased to hear the prayers of such as call upon Thee, teach

us, by Thy Holy Spirit, how to pray in an acceptable manner.

We humbly desire to thank Thee for having preserved us during the past night, and for having renewed Thy goodness unto us this morning. O take us into thy guidance and protection during the day, and so govern us by Thy grace, that we may try neither to think nor to act in a manner which would displease Thee, for Thou art the God of our salvation; on Thee would we wait all the day. O create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew right spirits within us. Grant us a large portion of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may have strength to overcome the temptations of the devil, and conquer the lusts of the flesh. Subdue our pride, and grant us, O Lord, mild, peaceable, meek, and humble spirits; that, remembering our

own infirmities, we may bear with those of others. Make us to esteem the praise of a good conscience more than all the praise of men. Search us, O God, and know our hearts: try us, and know our thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

[See Page 107.]

If we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us. 1 John v. 14.

Lord, when we bend before thy throne,
And our confessions pour,
Teach us to feel the sins we own,
And shun what we deplore.

Our contrite spirits pitying see,
True penitence impart:
And let a healing ray from Thee
Beam hope upon the heart.

When we disclose our wants in prayer,
May we our wills resign;
And not a thought our bosoms share
Which is not wholly thine.

Let faith each meek petition fill,
And waft it to the skies:
And teach our hearts 'tis goodness still,
That grants it, or denies.

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him *Ps.* ciii. 17.

He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. *Ps.* cii. 17.

Blessed are the peace-makers, for they shall be called the children of God. *Matt.* v. 9.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. *Heb.* xii. 14.

We which have believed, do enter into rest. *Heb.* iv. 3.

Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured. *Prov.* xiii. 18.

He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes. *Prov.* xiii. 24.

MONDAY EVENING.

Unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in his wings. *Mal.* iv. 2.

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications; in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with thy servant, O Lord; for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. *Ps.* cxliii. 1, 2.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life. *John* vi. 47.

LET US PRAY.

Almighty and Heavenly Father, we come before Thee this night, to offer Thee our

humble but hearty thanks for all Thy goodness to us this day. Thou Lord, art about our path, and our lying down, and art acquainted with all our ways. We cannot hide anything from Thee, for there is not a word in our tongues, but O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether. O shew Thy mercy upon us, and forgive us all the sinful thoughts, words, and actions, we have committed this day, for our Redeemer's sake. Help us to remember the good we may have this day learnt, and make us more careful to improve the opportunities we have, for being instructed in the ways of godliness; and grant that we may every day love Thee more, and serve Thee better. Pardon our sins in having so often heard and read the Bible without thought. O help us to understand the Scriptures, and

give us grace henceforth to study it diligently as our only guide to Eternal Life. "O send out Thy light and Thy truth; and let them lead us, let them bring us to Thy holy hill."* Prosper we beseech Thee, the labour of those who are endeavouring to spread the truths of Thy gospel in countries far distant; and grant that the time may soon come, when all shall be gathered into one fold under one Shepherd.

[See Page 109.]

Evening Hymn.

Sleep, downy sleep, come close my eyes,
Tired with beholding vanities;
Sweet slumbers, come and chase away,
The toils and follies of the day;
On your soft bosom will I lie,
Forget the world, and learn to die.

* Ps. xliii. 3.

O Israel's watchful Shepherd! spread
Tents of angels round my bed;
Let not the spirits of the air
While I slumber, me ensnare;
But save thy suppliant, free from harms,
Clasped in Thine everlasting arms.

Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light; let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God. *Isa.* l. 10.

Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him, shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. *Heb.* ix. 28.

I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions, and as a cloud thy sins; return unto me, for I have redeemed thee. *Isa.* xliv. 22.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. *James* v. 16.

A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger. *Prov.* xv. 1.

In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence; and his children shall have a place of refuge. *Prov.* xiv. 26.

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is his delight. *Prov.* xv. 8.

TUESDAY MORNING.

O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto Him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. *Ps.* xcv. 1, 2, 3.

He shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. *Ps.* lxxii. 12.

LET US PRAY.

O our Heavenly Father, Thou who hast preserved us through the helpless hours of night; we come before Thee this morning,

to implore Thy protection for ourselves and those we love, during this day. Keep us from all evil. Let us continually bear in mind, that if we call ourselves Thy servants, we should act continually as such, remembering that our time is not our own; that we are bought with a price, and must use our energies to Thy glory as far as lies in our power. Give us grace to do our duty conscientiously to those whom Thou hast placed above us, and grant that they on their part may do their duty by us. O fill our hearts with an overflowing love towards Thee; such as will make us kindly disposed towards our neighbours, and feel brotherly love one towards another. O Lord, look upon us with an eye of compassion. Heal our backslidings, love us freely. Make us to feel more and more deeply the extreme

heinousness of sin. We do not feel, O Lord, as we ought, that we are sinners indeed, and that we must have perished for ever, but for the saving blood of our blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ.

[See Page 107.]

My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. 2 Cor. xii. 9.

O God of our salvation, Lord
  Of wondrous power and love!
May faith, salvation's holy seed
  Be sent us from above.

'Tis faith, that gives us strength to fight,
  That we our foes may quell;
And with the shield of faith we quench
  The fiery darts of hell.

By faith we make our prayers to Thee
  In that most holy name,
On which, for mercy and for peace,
  Hope rests her stedfast claim.

For that name's sake, assist us, Lord,
  To run our heavenward race;
And O! may no unholy life
  Our holy faith disgrace.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
  Be praise and glory given,
Who pour into the hearts of men,
  True light and heat from Heaven.

Walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God. *Col.* i. 10.

In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you; I go to prepare a place for you. *John* xiv. 2.

We know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 *Cor.* v. 1.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. *Ps.* ciii. 8.

The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain. *Prov.* xv. 19.

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. *Prov.* xvi. 18, 19.

TUESDAY EVENING.

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits; even the God of our salvation. *Ps.* lxviii. 19.

My mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips;

When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. *Ps.* lxiii. 5, 6.

Thou art my God, I will praise thee; thou art my God, I will exalt thee.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. *Ps.* cxviii. 28, 29.

LET US PRAY.

O Lord God, we fall down before Thee at the close of another day, thanking and

praising Thee for the mercy Thou hast shown us, and imploring Thee for a continuance of Thy protection, without which we could not exist; for Thou art our keeper, Thou art our shade upon our right hand. Withhold not thine hand, O Lord. Consider not our iniquities; for if Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou mayest be feared. O give us grace, that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light; that at the last day, when Christ shall come again, in His glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through Him who reigneth with Thee for ever. O our Father, hear our prayer—forgive our shortcomings; for we desire to serve Thee with

our best abilities. The spirit is willing, O Lord, but the flesh is weak. Fill our hearts with love to Thee, so that it may influence all our actions. Make* us perfect in every good work; and work in us that which is well-pleasing in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ.

[See Page 109.]

He careth for you! 1 Pet. v. 7.

The daily favours of our God,
  We cannot sing at large:
Yet let us make this holy boast,
  We are th' Almighty's charge.

Lord, in the day Thou art about
  The paths wherein we tread;
And in the night, when we lie down,
  Thou art about our bed.

* Jude 21.

Oh! let this house a temple be;
That all of us may sing
Hosannas to Thy Majesty,
And praise our heavenly King.

Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. *Isa.* lvii. 15.

God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 1 *Pet.* v. 5.

I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die. *John* xi. 25, 26.

Surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God. *Eccl.* viii. 12.

Even a child is known by his doings, whether his works be pure, and whether it be right. *Prov.* xx. 11.

By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life. *Prov.* xxii. 4.

Boast not thyself of to-morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth. *Prov.* xxvii. 1.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Praise ye the Lord; praise the Lord, O my soul.

While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God:

Which made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever:

Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners.

The Lord shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the Lord. *Ps.* cxlvi. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 10.

LET US PRAY.

O Almighty and most merciful God our heavenly Father, who hast permitted us to see the light of another day in health and safety; we now come into Thy presence, not trusting in our own merits, but that Thou wilt accept our prayers through the mediation of our Saviour, who liveth at Thy right hand to make intercession for us, unworthy sinners. We humbly thank Thee for Thy kindly care of us during the past night, and implore Thy merciful protection during this day. O make us diligent in our several callings, remembering that our time is not our own, for we are professing servants of a heavenly Master. We desire, O Lord, to feel more keenly the weight of our sin. Grant us more humble and child-

like spirits; make us meek and lowly, as our blessed Saviour set us the example. Have mercy upon those that know not Thee. Draw them to Thee with cords of love, that they may finally become with us partakers of thy heavenly blessings, through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

[See Page 107.]

Unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in his wings.

MAL. iv. 2.

Come, holy Sun of heavenly love,
Shower down thy radiance from above;
And to our inward hearts convey
The Holy Spirit's cloudless ray.

And we the Father's help will claim,
And sing the Father's glorious name;

His powerful succour we implore,
That we may stand and fall no more.

May He our actions deign to bless,
And loose the bonds of wickedness;
From sudden falls, our feet defend,
And bring us to a prosperous end.

May faith deep rooted in the soul,
Subdue our flesh, our minds controul:
May guile depart, and discord cease,
And all within be joy and peace.

O hallowed be, the approaching day!
Let meekness be our morning ray;
And faithful love our noonday light;
And hope our sunset, calm and bright.

O Christ! with each returning morn,
Thine image to our hearts is borne;
O may we ever clearly see
Our Saviour, and our God, in Thee.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and

ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. *Luke* xi. 9.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee. *Isa.* xxvi. 3.

God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 1 *Cor.* x. 13.

If thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. 1 *Chron.* xxviii. 9.

Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it. *Prov.* xxii. 6.

He that followeth after righteousness and mercy, findeth life, righteousness, and honour. *Prov.* xxi. 21.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust; His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day.

Because thou hast made the Lord which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation;

There shall no evil befal thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. *Psa.* xci. 2, 4, 5, 9, 10.

LET US PRAY.

O most merciful God! we come before

Thee again this evening, thanking Thee for Thy lovingkindness in having brought us in safety to the close of another day. We confess, O Lord, our short-comings, for we have left undone many things that we ought to have done, and have done many things that we ought not to have done. We can do no good thing of ourselves; at the best we are unprofitable servants. O strengthen us therefore with Thy strength. Grant that we may shew forth Thy strength in our weakness. Give us humility; grace to overcome our pride. O let us not become self-righteous, or covetous, or self-indulgent, for Thou hatest such things. Let us remember at all times the example of our blessed Saviour, who was meek and lowly; kind and forgiving towards all, even towards those who persecuted him, and may this

remind us to render good for evil to those who entreat us wrongfully. Lead us, O Lord, in Thy righteousness; make Thy way straight before us. Hold up our goings in Thy paths, that our footsteps slip not. Keep us as the apple of Thine eye; hide us under the shadow of Thy wings, for our blessed Saviour's sake.

[See Page 109.]

Let brotherly love continue. HEB. xiii. 1.

Few are the hours when we can share,
The comfort of united prayer;
In Jesus' name together meet,
And put the world beneath our feet.

Yet, Lord, thy goodness we adore,
Which now assembles us once more;
O may we here thy presence find,
And serve Thee with a thankful mind.

Teach us, though in a world of sin,
  Heaven's blest employment to begin;
To speak our great Redeemer's praise,
  And love his name, and learn his ways.

Teach us to love as Christians ought,
  Nor keep one proud or angry thought;
And when we meet, or when we part,
  Oh! may we still be join'd in heart.

Father, look down with pitying eye;
  Our sins forgive, our wants supply;
Through stedfast faith, that works by love,
  Prepare us for thy rest above.

Happy is the man whom God correcteth; therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty. *Job* v. 17.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him; for he knoweth our frame, he remembereth that we are dust. *Ps.* ciii. 13, 14.

The meek will he guide in judgment, and the meek will he teach his way. *Ps.* xxv. 9.

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. *Lam.* iii. 22, 23.

Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread. *Prov.* xx. 13.

The just man walketh in his integrity; his children are blessed after him. *Prov.* xx. 7.

THURSDAY MORNING.

I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.

The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate. *Ps.* xxxiv. 1, 3, 8, 15, 22.

LET US PRAY.

O most gracious God, our heavenly Father, again in Thy mercy Thou hast permitted

us to see the light of another day; and again we humbly kneel before Thee, to offer our imperfect praise and thanksgiving for thy unnumbered mercies towards us. O send down Thy light and Thy truth upon us; enlarge our desires after holy things; and increase our hatred of sin, for we earnestly desire to be Thy servants, wholly, entirely thine. Make us anxious to spread the blessed truths of the Gospel, by which we hope to obtain our salvation, among those with whom we have any influence; let us never neglect our opportunities. Give us grace to work while it is day, for the night cometh wherein no man can work. We will sing of thy power; yea, we will sing aloud of Thy mercy in the morning, for Thou hast been our defence and our refuge. Unto Thee, O our strength, will we

sing; for God is our defence, and the God of our mercy. (Ps. lix. 16, 17.) Fill our hearts with love towards Thee. And give us grace to spend this day as we would we had done, should it indeed prove our last. Hear the voice of our supplications, gracious God, for the sake of Thy blessed Son.

[See Page 107.]

Peace be to this house. LUKE x. 5.

Peace be to this habitation,
  Peace to all that dwell therein;
Peace, the earnest of salvation,
  Peace, the fruit of pardoned sin.

Peace, that speaks the heavenly Giver,
  Peace to worldly minds unknown;
Peace divine, that lasts for ever,
  Peace, that comes from God alone.

Prince of Peace, be present near us,
  Fix in all our hearts thy home;
With thy gracious presence cheer us,
  Let thy sacred kingdom come.

Raise to heaven our expectation;
  Give our favoured souls to prove
Glorious and complete salvation,
  In the realms of bliss above.

The Lord will be a refuge for the distressed, a refuge in times of trouble. *Ps.* ix. 9.

Be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another; even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you. *Eph.* iv. 32.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. *Matt.* v. 3.

Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust, and not be afraid; for the Lord Jehovah

is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. *Isa.* xii. 2.

The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. *Prov.* xv. 3.

Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured. *Prov.* xiii. 18.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O come, let us worship and bow down let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. *Ps.* xcv. 6, 7.

I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved:

Therefore my heart is glad, my flesh also shall rest in hope.

Thou wilt shew me the path of life; in thy presence is fulness of joy; and at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. *Ps.* xvi. 8, 9, 11.

LET US PRAY.

O holy Father, Lord of heaven and earth,

we have to thank Thee for Thy care and protection during another day. We are weak and sinful creatures, and can do no good thing of ourselves; Oh! put now we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy words into our mouths, and Thy thoughts into our hearts, that our prayer may be acceptable unto Thee. We have many blessings to praise Thee for; our health, and our strength, besides many others of which we never rightly know the value, till it pleases Thee to deprive us of them. O Lord, we entreat Thee to grant us such patience as will enable us to bear the trials and crosses which Thou seest fit to send us, with a meek, patient, and contented spirit. O Lord, increase our faith and trust in Thee, that we may truly believe that all Thou sendest is for our good. Thou hast told us in Thy blessed Word,

that all things shall work together *for good* to them that love Thee. Grant, O God, that we may prove the truth of this saying in our own experience. Make us feel more deeply that we are sinners indeed, and that it is Satan, who entering into our hard and impenitent hearts, makes us often think within ourselves, "after all we are not so bad," or, "we are better than our neighbours." O gracious God, give us grace to resist such dangerous thoughts, and to believe that the prophet Jeremiah speaketh too truly, when he saith, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it?"* Hear, O Lord, our prayer, for the sake of Thy blessed Son.

[See page 109.]

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* Jer. xvii. 9.

The sun is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoicing as a strong man to run a race. Ps. xix. 5.

My God who makes the sun to know
His proper hour to rise;
And to give light to all below,
Doth send him round the skies.

When from the chambers of the east
His morning race begins,
He never tires, nor stops to rest;
But round the world he shines.

So like the sun would I fulfil,
The business of the day;
Begin my work betimes, and still
Go on my heavenly way.

Give me, O Lord! thy early grace,
Nor let my soul complain
That all the morning of my days,
Has all been spent in vain.

He giveth power to the faint, and to them

that have no might he increaseth strength. *Isa.* xl. 29.

He shall feed his flock like a Shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom. *Isa.* xl. 11.

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint. *Isa.* xl. 31.

The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. *Lam.* iii. 25.

Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin? *Prov.* xx. 9.

Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth. *Prov.* xxiv. 17.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.

Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

The righteous shall see it, and rejoice; and all iniquity shall stop her mouth.

Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord. *Ps.* cvii. 1, 2, 8, 9, 42, 43.

LET US PRAY.

O holy, blessed, and most merciful God,

the light of another day bears witness to thy long-suffering, goodness, and mercy. Thou hast again spared us, that we may have another opportunity of shewing our love and our gratitude to Thee. Oh fill our hearts with love, and joy, and peace! Make us feel contented with the station in which it has pleased Thee to place us, and grant us grace to employ, as we are best able, all our opportunities of doing good. Oh strengthen and increase our faith! Lord, have mercy upon us! and make us to love Thee more and to serve Thee better, day by day. We are very sinful, but we know, O Lord, that we do not feel, as we ought, the weight of our sin; our iniquities do not grieve us as they should. Give us grace to see Thy hand in all things, and faith to believe that all Thou doest is for our

good. Hold up our goings in Thy paths, that our footsteps slip not; for we commit our way unto Thee. O Lord, open thou our lips, and our mouth shall shew forth Thy praise. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew right spirits within us, for the sake of Thy dear Son.

[See Page 107.]

Have fervent charity among yourselves. 1 Pet. iv. 3.

Jesus, Lord, we look to thee,
Let us, in thy name, agree:
Each to each unite, endear;
Come and spread thy banner here.

Make us of one heart and mind,
Courteous, pitiful, and kind;
Lowly, both in thought and word;
Altogether like our Lord.

Let us for each other care,
Each the other's burden bear:
To thy church the pattern give;
Shew how true believers live.

Free from anger and from pride,
Let us still in God abide:
May our daily life express
Constant love and holiness.

Let us then with joy remove
To the family above:
On the wings of angels fly;
Shew how true believers die.

I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. *Micah* vii. 7.

Men ought always to pray, and not to faint. *Luke* xviii. 1.

The Lord lifteth up the meek; he casteth the wicked down to the ground. *Ps.* cxlvii. 6.

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. *Eph.* i. 7.

The wicked flee when no man pursueth; but the righteous are bold as a lion. *Prov.* xxviii. 1.

The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it. *Prov.* xxx. 17.

FRIDAY EVENING.

Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart.

He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the Lord is gracious, and full of compassion.

The works of his hands are verity and judgment: all his commandments are sure.

They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever. *Ps.* cxi. 1, 4, 7, 8, 10.

LET US PRAY.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, we come before Thee this evening with our hearts full

of gratitude for Thy merciful care and protection during the day that is past. O continue to us Thy loving-kindness and tender mercies. Let thine angels watch around us this night: keep us under the shadow of Thy wing. Forgive us, O Lord, the sins we have this day committed in thought, word, or deed, and keep us from falling into them again. O grant us patience, that we may bear, in a proper spirit, the trials which Thou seest fit to send us. Let us not repine and rebel against Thy will; but may it only increase our faith and trust in Thee. We are faithless and rebellious creatures; we can do no good thing of ourselves! Have mercy, therefore, upon us, O Lord our Creator, for thou rememberest that we are but dust. Fill our hearts with love and gratitude towards Thee, and grant that it may

shew forth in all our actions. Thy hands have made us and fashioned us, O Lord: give us understanding, that we may learn Thy commandments, and treasure them up in our hearts, for Christ's sake.

[See Page 109.]

He that keepeth thee will not slumber. Ps. cxxi. 3.

Saviour, breathe an ev'ning blessing,
  Ere repose our spirits seal;
Sin and want we come confessing;
  Thou canst save, and Thou canst heal.

Though destruction walk around us;
  Though the arrows past us fly;
Angel guards from thee surround us,
  We are safe if Thou art nigh.

Though the night be dark and dreary,
  Darkness cannot hide from Thee;
Thou art He, who never weary,
  Watchest where thy people be.

Should swift death this night o'ertake us,
  And our couch become our tomb,
May the morn in heaven awake us,
  Clad in bright and deathless bloom.

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. *James* iv. 8.

Let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well-doing, as unto a faithful Creator. 1 *Pet.* iv. 19.

Search the Scriptures: for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me. *John* v. 39.

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. *Isa.* xl. 8.

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. *Prov.* xxx. 5.

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls. *Prov.* xxv. 28.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.

Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain.

He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth.

O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. *Ps.* civ. 1, 2, 14, 24, 33.

LET US PRAY.

O our heavenly Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we come before Thee this morning with humble and grateful hearts, desiring to thank Thee for Thy unwearying care of us, Thy unworthy creatures. Oh! that we could shew forth more by our actions, our love, and our gratitude to Thee. We entreat Thee, O Lord, to increase our love, to enlarge our hearts, and to put holy and right desires within us. Give us grace to resist temptation, so that we may be enabled to say, "Get thee behind me, Satan," and be able to put away the wicked thoughts which find their way into our hearts, gaining strength from Thee by often raising our hearts in silent prayer. Oh, Lord, our sins are many and great; we do that which

we ought not to do, and we leave undone that which we should have done; there is no good thing in us; we are altogether unprofitable servants; but Thou *canst* strengthen and Thou *wilt* forgive. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy; look upon us in compassion, for Thy dear Son's sake. Go forth with us, O God, we entreat Thee, to our several duties this day, and fill our hearts with Thy Holy Spirit. "The Spirit of Truth which the world cannot receive."* All this we dare to ask for the sake of our blessed Saviour.

* John xvi. 13.

[See Page 106.]

Pray without ceasing. 1 THESS. v. 17.

Go when the morning shineth—
  Go when the moon is bright—
Go when the eve declineth—
  Go in the hush of night—
Go with pure mind and feeling,
  Fling earthly thought away,
And in thy chamber kneeling
  To God, in secret pray!

Remember all who love thee—
  All who are loved by thee—
Pray, too, for those who hate thee,
  If any such there be!
Then for thyself in meekness
  A blessing humbly claim,
And join with each petition,
  Thy great Redeemer's name!

Or, if 'tis here denied thee
  In solitude to pray,
Let holy thoughts come o'er thee
  When friends are round thy way!

E'en then the silent breathing,
  Of thy spirit raised above,
Will reach His throne of glory;
  Who is mercy, truth, and love.

Oh! not a joy or blessing
  With this can we compare?
The power that He hath given us,
  To pour our souls in prayer!

Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 1 *Peter* i. 18, 19.

Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. 2 *Cor.* viii. 9.

Thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins. *Matt.* i. 21.

He retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. *Micah* vii. 18.

Be ye reconciled to God. 2 *Cor.* v. 20.

The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish; but he casteth away the substance of the wicked. *Prov.* x. 3.

Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour, shall increase. *Prov.* xiii. 11.

SATURDAY EVENING.

I will extol thee, my God, O King; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever.

The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

The Lord is good to all; and his tender mercies are over all his works.

The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth:

He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them. *Ps.* cxlv. 1, 8, 9, 14, 18, 19.

LET US PRAY.

O most merciful and gracious God, our Creator and our Preserver, we humbly kneel before Thee this night, desiring to thank Thee for Thy mercies, and to entreat Thy forgiveness for the sins of the past week. O our God, may we more continually remember that Thine eye is constantly upon us, and that Thou seest our thoughts as well as our actions; and may this remembrance prevent our committing many sins, which we have had this week to repent of. Give us grace, O Lord, to conquer our pride: O give us humility; the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is the mark of all true Christians. Lord, increase our faith. We are weak and wavering; but we would put all our trust and con-

fidence in Thee, the Creator and Governor of all things: for Thou knowest what is best for us, and we would leave all things in Thy hands. When we look around and see the many fellow-creatures, whom it hath pleased Thee to afflict either in their bodies or their minds, it should indeed increase our love and our gratitude to Thee, that we are what Thou hast made us, and neither blind, nor deaf, nor dumb. O may the truths of Thy blessed Gospel be spread wide over the whole earth, that the time may soon come, when all shall know Thee from the least to the greatest. Shed abroad Thy love in our hearts: O fill us with love and joy and peace in believing. Grant us a large portion of Thy Holy Spirit, to teach us the words we should say, and to lead us in the way wherein we should go.

Bless us, O Lord, and we shall be blessed, and let us sleep this night with consciences void of offence, and at peace with God and man, for our blessed Saviour's sake.

[See Page 109.]

I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. Ps. ci. 2.

O Lord, another day is flown,
And we, a feeble band,
Are met once more before thy throne,
To bless thy fostering hand.

Thy heavenly grace impart to each,
All evil far remove;
And shed abroad in every heart
Thine everlasting love.

Our souls obedient to thy sway,
In Christian bonds unite;
Let peace and love conclude the day,
And hail the morning light.

Thus cleansed from sin, and wholly thine,
  A flock by Jesus led ;
The Sun of Righteousness shall shine
  In glory on our head.

Oh ! still restore our wandering feet,
  And still direct our way,
'Till worlds shall fail, and faith shall greet,
  The dawn of endless day.

The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayers. 1 *Peter* iii. 12.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; whom resist steadfast in the faith. 1 *Peter* v. 8, 9.

Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. 1 *Tim.* iv. 8.

He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. *Heb.* xi. 6.

Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find? *Prov.* xx. 6.

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again. *Prov.* xix. 17.

PRAYERS.

MORNING PRAYER FOR AN INDIVIDUAL.

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land where no water is. *Ps.* lxiii. 1.

My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up. *Ps.* v. 3.

But know that the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the Lord will hear when I call unto him. *Ps.* iv. 3.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. *Ps.* ciii. 2.

O most merciful and gracious God, my heavenly Father, I kneel before Thee this morning with a heart full of gratitude for thy care and protection during the past night. O continue it to me this day. Grant that I may fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger. Let me continually remember that thine eye is ever upon me, and may this thought make me careful to do nothing which will offend or displease Thee, my long-suffering and gracious God. O increase my faith, and trust, and confidence in Thee; so that I may firmly believe that whatever cares and anxieties Thou seest fit to send me, however hard to bear, it is for my good. Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief! O make me to feel that I am a

sinner indeed. Give me grace to resist Satan when he would tempt me to believe that I am no worse than my neighbours, remembering that in Thy sight all are sinners alike. O give me grace to resist all temptations. Strengthen me with thy strength. Let me bear in mind that though of myself I can do no good thing, yet through Christ I can do all things. O grant me grace to overcome my bad tempers, that when I feel inclined to be angry or cross, I may remember the example of my blessed Saviour, who even "when He was reviled, reviled not again." Let me strive to be meek and humble, forbearing towards others, remembering my own short comings. "Create in me a new heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Fill my heart with love to Thee, so that it may manifest itself in acts of kindness to

my fellow creatures. Make me one of Thine own flock. Draw me closer to Thee, so that I may be one of those, to whom at the last Great day Thou wilt say, "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you." Lord, pity my weakness. Forgive I entreat Thee, my sins for my Saviour's sake, though they be indeed many and great. "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean, wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Bless, I beseech Thee, all who are dear to me, guard them from sin as well as from danger, and teach them to know Thee, more and more, for the sake of my blessed Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER FOR AN INDIVIDUAL.

Lord, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee. Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. *Ps.* cxli. 1, 2.

I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep; for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety. *Ps.* iv. 8.

O holy and merciful God, whom I am permitted to call my Father. I come before Thee this night acknowledging Thy undeserved goodness towards me, and entreating Thy watchful care and protection during the

hours of darkness. O Lord, I have done this day many things which I ought not to have done, and have left undone many things which I ought to have done. I have no strength to do anything good of myself. O strengthen me with Thy strength, and guide me with Thy counsel. O Lord, I beseech Thee, to increase my trust and confidence in Thee. Grant me a large portion of faith, and hope, and peace, in believing. Make me one of Thy chosen ones, make me to love Thee more, that I may serve Thee better, and show more patience and forbearance to those around me. May I remember that each day brings me nearer to death and to eternity, and recollecting this, may I be careful profitably to use each passing hour, that I may not misuse the talent of time which Thou hast committed

to my care. Lord, mercifully forgive the sins of the past day. O cleanse Thou me from my secret faults. Wash me in the blood of my Saviour, and forgive my sins for His sake, I beseech Thee; so that I may sleep this night with a conscience at peace with God and man. Bless and protect all who are near and dear to me. Make them to know Thee, so that we may all meet again when Thou shalt call us from this world of sin. O hear my imperfect prayer, through the mediation of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

[We should never read the Holy Scriptures without offering up a prayer, however short, for the teaching of the Holy Spirit; we cannot otherwise expect a blessing upon it.]

PRAYER BEFORE READING THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

Grant us, O Lord, the teaching of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may understand and profit by what we are now about to read from Thy Holy Word, for Christ's sake. Amen.

OR THIS,

O Lord, open thou our eyes, that we may behold the wondrous things that are in Thy law, and give us grace to understand and profit by it, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

PRAYER TO BE ADDED ON TO EACH DAILY PRAYER.

Bless, we beseech Thee, O Lord, with Thy best blessings, our relations and friends, and all who are dear to us. Teach them to know Thee, and to love Thee as they ought, that we may all meet again in heaven, when Thou shalt call us from this world of sin and sorrow. Oh impress upon our minds the great value of time, that talent which Thou hast committed to our care; let us remember that each day brings us nearer to death and to eternity, so that by the help of Thy grace, we may be enabled profitably to use each passing hour. Lord, increase our faith; so that we may be enabled to bear with patience the trials which Thou seest fit to send us.

Strengthen us in all good things, so that we may feel that though of ourselves we can do no good thing, "yet we can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth us." Lord, have mercy upon us. O forgive us our sins, they are many and great; but Thou art merciful, and long-suffering, and full of compassion. O hear our prayers, for the sake of our most blessed Redeemer, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c. May the grace, &c.

PRAYER TO BE ADDED ON TO THE END OF THE EVENING PRAYERS FOR EACH NIGHT.

We desire, O merciful God, to commend to Thy Fatherly care and protection this night, all who are near and dear to us; keep them and us under the shadow of Thy wings, that we may fear no evil; forgive, we beseech Thee, for our Saviour's sake, the many and grievous sins we have committed this day, and give us grace that we may not repeat them. Thou hast said, "Though thy sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." O cleanse us now from our sins, that we may go to rest this night with pure consciences towards Thee, for our blessed Redeemer's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, &c. May the grace, &c.

PRAYER FOR A SICK MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

O Lord, we entreat Thee, to look with an eye of pity upon our dear one, whom it hath pleased Thee to afflict. Teach us to see wherefore Thou hast laid him (or her) low, that Thy dispensation may not lose the purpose for which it was sent. We know that Thou dost not willingly afflict nor grieve the children of men, and that it is those whom Thou lovest that Thou chasteneth. Open our eyes, O Lord, that we may see that this affliction has been sent, not in Thy wrath, but in Thy love; and give us strength to bear it, for the sake of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A VERY YOUNG CHILD.

[It is best that the Child should repeat some simple little Hymn before beginning the Prayer, as it helps to collect their wandering thoughts.]

MORNING.

Great God, who livest in heaven, wilt Thou listen to the prayer of a little child, and give me a new heart, to make me good, and love Thee. I thank Thee, great God, for taking such care of me last night, and for giving me such sweet sleep. Blessed Jesus, make me one of Thy little lambs; put Thy good Spirit into my heart, so that I may not do wicked things, which would make Thee sorry, but may be kind and gentle to all. Make me very careful never to say what is not true; and never to be cross or

ill-natured, or unkind, for it is the devil who puts these wicked things into our hearts. Put Thy love into my heart, so that I may love every thing that Thou hast made, and never find pleasure in hurting the smallest little insect. Pray God bless my dear father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all that I love. Hear the prayer of a little child, for the sake of Thy dear Son, who was once a little child, and who died that I might go to heaven. Amen.

CHILD'S MORNING HYMN.

God has bid the sun arise,
Shining bright o'er earth and skies;
I, a little child, will pay
Thanks to Him who made the day.

Whilst I laid me down and slept,
God has me in safety kept:
Let me raise to Him my prayer,
Who has made my life His care.

Though ten thousand angels sing
Praises to the heavenly King;
When I pray He bows His ear,
And an infant's voice will hear.

Give to me Thy early grace,
Let me see Thy shining face;
Pardon me, my wants supply,
Guide me, bless me, till I die.

CHILD'S EVENING PRAYER.

Great God, though I am but a little child, I kneel before Thee to thank Thee for taking such care of me all day long, for Thou hast said, Thou wilt listen to the prayers of little children. I have done many wicked things to-day, and said many things which were very naughty, *(here the child should remember and confess the particular things he remembers having done wrong)* but Jesus Christ died that my sins might be forgiven. Great God, pray forgive them for dear Jesus' sake, and put Thy good Spirit into my heart, that I may not do the same wicked things to-morrow, but remember, that Thine eye is always looking at me. Pray God, bless my dear father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and let Thy good angels watch around our beds when we sleep, for dear Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

CHILD'S EVENING PRAYER.

Lord, I have passed another day,
  And come to thank thee for thy care:
Forgive my faults in work or play,
  And listen to my evening prayer.

Thy favour gives me daily bread,
  And friends, who all my wants supply;
And safely now I rest my head,
  Preserved and guarded by thine eye.

Look down in pity and forgive
  Whate'er I've said or done amiss;
And help me, every day I live
  To serve thee better than on this.

Now, while I speak, be pleased to take
  A helpless child beneath thy care;
And condescend, for Jesus' sake,
  To listen to my evening prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen. 2 *Cor.* xiii. 14.

May the Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Amen. *Num.* vi. 24, 25, 26.

THE very God of Peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 *Thess.* v. 23.

HYMNS,

&c. &c.

O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. *Ps.* xcv. 1.

From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,
Through every land, by every tongue.

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord,
Eternal truth attends thy word;
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
'Till suns shall rise, and set no more.

A PSALM OF LIFE.

Life is real! life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
"Dust thou art, to dust returnest,"
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each to-morrow
Find us farther than to-day.

Lives of great men all remind us
We may make our lives sublime;
And, departing, leave behind us
Footsteps on the sands of time.

Let us then be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour, and to wait.

God is love.

Herein is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 *John* iv. 8, 10.

I say to thee, do thou repeat
To the first man thou mayest meet
In lane, highway, or open street,—

That he, and we, and all men move
Under a canopy of love,
As broad as the blue sky above;

That doubt and trouble, fear and pain,
And anguish, all are shadows vain;
That death itself shall not remain:

That weary deserts we may tread,
A dreary labyrinth may thread,
Through dark ways under ground be led;

Yet if we will our Guide obey,
The dreariest path, the darkest way
Shall issue out in heavenly day.

And we, on divers shores now cast,
Shall meet, our perilous voyage past,
All in our Father's house at last.

And ere thou leave him, say thou this,
Yet one word more,—They only miss
The winning of that final bliss,

Who will not count it true, that love
Blessing not cursing, rules above;
And that in it we live and move.

And one thing further make him know,
That to believe these things are so;
This firm faith never to forego,

Despite of all that seems at strife
With blessings, all with curses rife,
That this is blessing, this is life.

"Not what I will, but what Thou wilt." *Mark* xiv. 36.

O Lord, my best desires fulfil,
  And help me to resign
Life, health, and comfort, to Thy will,
  And make Thy pleasure mine.

Why should I shrink at Thy command,
  Whose love forbids my fears!
Or tremble at the gracious hand
  That wipes away my tears?

No; rather let me freely yield
  What most I prize to Thee;
Who never hast a good withheld,
  Or wilt withhold from me.

Thy favour all my journey through,
  Thou art engaged to grant;
What else I want, or think I do,
  'Tis better still to want.

Wisdom and mercy guide my way;
  Shall I resist them both?
A poor blind creature of a day,
  And crushed before the moth!

But ah! my inward spirit cries,
  Still bind me to thy sway:
Else the next cloud that veils the skies,
  Drives all these thoughts away.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock." *Rev.* iii. 20.

Behold a stranger at the door!
He gently knocks, has knocked before;
Has waited long, is waiting still:
You used no other friend so ill.

But will he prove a friend indeed?
He will: the very friend you need;
The man of Nazareth, 'tis He,
With garments dyed at Calvary.

Rise, touched with gratitude divine,
Turn out his enemy and thine;
Turn out that hateful monster, sin,
And let the Heavenly Stranger in.

If thou art poor, and poor thou art—
Lo! He hath riches to impart:
Not wealth in which mean avarice rolls;
But nobler far,—the wealth of souls.

Art thou a mourner? grief shall fly;
For who can weep with Jesus by?
No terror shall thy soul annoy;
No tear, except the tear of joy.

Admit him, ere his anger burn,
Lest he depart, and ne'er return;
Admit him, or the hour's at hand,
When, at his door, denied you stand.

Admit him, for the human breast
Ne'er entertained so kind a guest:
No mortal tongue their joys can tell,
With whom he condescends to dwell.

Sovereign of souls! Thou Prince of Peace!
O may thy gentle reign increase!
Throw wide the door, each willing mind;
And be His empire, all mankind.

"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever." *Heb.* xiii. 8.

Why should I fear the darkest hour,
Or tremble at the tempest's power?
Jesus vouchsafes to be my tower.

Though hot the fight, why quit the field;
Why must I either flee or yield,
Since Jesus is my mighty shield?

When creature comforts fade and die,
Worldlings may weep, but why should I?
Jesus still lives, and still is nigh.

Though all the flocks and herds were dead,
My soul a famine would not dread;
For Jesus is my living bread.

I know not what may soon betide,
Nor how my wants may be supplied;
But Jesus knows, and will provide.

Though sin would fill me with distress,
The throne of grace I dare address;
For Jesus is my righteousness.

Though faint my prayers, and cold my love,
My steadfast hopes shall not remove,
While Jesus intercedes above.

Against me, earth and hell combine,
But on my side is power divine;
Jesus is all, and He is mine.

"Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." *Mark* ix. 24.

Yes, I do feel, my God, that I am thine,
  Thou art my joy,—myself, mine only grief,
Hear my complaint, low bending at thy shrine,
  "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief?"

Unworthy even to approach so near,
  My soul lies trembling like a summer leaf,
Yet, O forgive! I doubt not though I fear,
  "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief!"

True I am weak, oh very weak,—but then
  I know the source whence I can draw relief;
And though repulsed, I still can plead again,
  "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief!"

Oh draw me nearer! for, too far away,
  The beamings of thy brightness are too brief;
While faith, though fainting, still hath power to pray,
  "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief!"

"The Lord will strengthen him upon his bed of languishing; thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness." *Ps.* xli. 3.

O how soft that bed must be,
Made in sickness, Lord, by thee!
And that rest how calm, how sweet,
When Jesus and the sufferer meet.

It was the good Physician now,
Soothed thy cheek and chafed thy brow;
Whispering, as He raised thy head,
"It is I, be not afraid."

God of glory, God of grace,
Hear from heaven thy dwelling-place:
Hear in mercy and forgive,
Bid thy child believe, and live.

Bless her, and she shall be blest;
Soothe her, and she shall have rest,
Fix her heart, her hopes above,
Love her, Lord, for thou art love.

"Who is my neighbour?" *Luke* x. 29.

Thy neighbour? it is he whom thou
  Hast power to aid and bless,
Whose aching heart, or burning brow,
  Thy soothing hand may press.

Thy neighbour? 'tis the fainting poor,
  Whose eye with want is dim,
Whom hunger sends from door to door,
  Go thou, and succour him.

Thy neighbour? 'tis that weary man,
  Whose years are at their brim,
But low with sickness, cares, and pain,
  Go thou, and comfort him.

Thy neighbour? 'tis the heart bereft
  Of every earthly gem;
Widow and orphan, helpless left,
  Go thou, and shelter them.

Thy neighbour? every human form,
  Less favored than thy own;
Remember, 'tis thy fellow worm,
  Thy brother or thy son.

O! pass not, pass not heedless by,
  Perhaps thou canst redeem
The breaking heart from misery,
  Go, share thy lot with him.

"I will say unto God, Do not condemn me; shew me wherefore Thou contendest with me?" *Job* x. 2.

O Thou! whose gently chastening hand
  In mercy deals the blow,
Make but Thy servant understand
  Wherefore Thou layest me low!

I ask Thee not the rod to spare,
  While thus Thy love I see;
But, O let every suffering bear
  Some message, Lord, from Thee!

Perhaps an erring wish I knew,
  To read my future fate,
And Thou would'st say—"thy days are few,
  And vain thy best estate!"

Perhaps, Thy glory seemed my choice,
  Whilst I secured my own,
And thus my kind Reprover's voice,
  Tells me He works alone!

O silence Thou, this murmuring will,
  Nor bid Thy rough wind stay,
Till with a furnace hotter still,
  My dross is purged away!

"Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out." *John* vi. 37.

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
"Fightings within, and fears without,"
O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee I find,
O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am, Thy love unknown,
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come!

SABBATH HYMN.

"And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it." *Gen.* ii. 3.

Again our weekly labours end,
And we the Sabbath's call attend,
Improve, our souls, the sacred rest,
Come, bless the day that God hath blessed.

This day may our devotions rise,
Through Christ a grateful sacrifice;
And our blessed Lord that peace bestow,
Which none but they who feel it know.

That peace of God within the breast,
Is the rich foretaste of a rest,
Which for the church of Christ remains,
A rest from sin, and guilt, and pains.

In holy duties let this day,
Heaven's type and emblem, pass away;
And may we thus each Sabbath spend,
In hope of that which shall not end.

SABBATH HYMN.

"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." *Matt.* xviii. 20.

Lord of the Sabbath, 'tis Thy day,
Now at its close, Thy grace display;
Assembled in Thy sacred name,
Lo! two or three Thy promise claim.

Thanks for Thy house of prayer, O Lord,
Thanks for Thy day, and for Thy Word,
For all the means which Thou hast given,
Of knowing Thee, and gaining heaven.

The Sabbath ended, now we seek
Thy blessing on us through the week;
Let all its days with Thee begin,
That each may prove a rest from sin.

Lord of the Sabbath, 'tis Thy day,
Let sinners feel and own Thy sway:
The banner of the cross unfurled,
Spread Thou thine empire through the world.

"He maketh darkness, and it is night." *Psalm* civ. 20.

Night is the time for rest;
How sweet, when labours close,
To gather round an aching head
The curtain of repose.
Stretch the tired limbs, and lay the head
Upon our own delightful bed.

Night is the time to weep,
To wet with unseen tears
Those graves of memory, where sleep
The joys of other years;
Hopes that were angels at their birth,
But perished soon like things of earth.

Night is the time to pray,
Our Saviour oft withdrew
To desert, mountains, far away,
So will his followers do.
Steal from the throng to haunts untrod,
And commune there alone with God.

Night is the time for death ;
When all around is peace,
Calmly to yield the weary breath,
From sin and suffering cease.
Think of heaven's bliss, and give the sign
To parting friends ; such death be mine !

"At evening time it shall be light." *Zech.* xiv. 7.

At evening time, let there be light:
  Life's little day draws near its close;
Around me fall the shades of night—
  The night of death, the grave's repose;
  To crown my joys, to end my woes:
At evening time, let there be light!

At evening time, let there be light:
  Stormy and dark hath been my day;
Yet rose the morn divinely bright,
  Dews, birds, and blossoms, cheer'd the way;
  O! for one sweet, one parting ray!
At evening time, let there be light!

At evening time, there shall be light;
  For God hath spoken—"So let it be!"
Fear, doubt, and anguish take their flight;
  His glory now is risen on me:
  Mine eyes shall his salvation see:
'Tis evening time, and there *is* light!

"Ask, and it shall be given you." *Luke* xi. 9.

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
  Uttered or unexprest;
The motion of a hidden fire
  That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
  The falling of a tear;
The upward glancing of an eye,
  When none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech
  That infant lips can try;
Prayer, the sublimest strains that reach
  The Majesty on high.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
  The Christian's native air;
His watchword at the gates of death;
  He enters heaven by prayer.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice,
  Returning from his ways;
While angels in their songs rejoice,
  And say, "Behold! he prays!"

The saints in heaven appear as one,
  In word, and deed, and mind;
While, with the Father and his Son,
  Their fellowship they find.

Nor prayer is made on earth alone;
  The Holy Spirit pleads:
And Jesus, at the eternal throne,
  For sinners intercedes.

O Thou, by whom we come to God,
  The Life, the Truth, the Way;
The path of prayer thyself hast trod:
  Lord, teach us how to pray!

CHILDREN'S HYMNS.

I.

The darkness is over, the sun is on high,
The lark is up singing his song in the sky;
The cattle and labourers all are abroad,
And every thing's serving and praising its God.

I will not be sleeping my morning away,
But try to be busy and useful as they;
I'll rise with the skylark, and join in his song,
And thank God for watching me all the night long.

How kind God is to me, how great and how good,
And for me my Saviour has shed his own blood;
Lord, teach me that Saviour to love and to know,
And make me more like Him the older I grow.

How early He rose, to get time for his prayer;
His own dearest mother He honoured with care:
And now He's in glory he's loving to all,
And will save whosoe'er shall on his name call.

II.

Lord, teach a little child to pray,
  Thy grace betimes impart,
And grant thy Holy Spirit may
  Renew my infant heart.

But Christ can all my sins forgive,
  And wash away their stain;
And fit my soul with Him to live,
  And in his kingdom reign.

To Him let little children come,
  For He hath said they may;
His bosom then shall be their home;
  Their tears He'll wipe away.

For all who early seek his face,
  Shall surely taste his love;
Jesus shall guide them by his grace,
  To dwell with Him above.

III.

When daily I kneel down to pray
  As I am taught to do;
God does not care for what I say,
  Unless I feel it too.

Yet foolish thoughts my heart beguile,
  And while I pray and sing,
I'm often thinking all the while,
  About some other thing.

Some idle play, or childish toy
  Can send my thoughts abroad;
When this should be my chiefest joy,
  To love and seek the Lord.

Oh! let me never, never dare
  To act a trifler's part;
Or think that God will hear a prayer,
  That comes not from the heart.

But if I make his word my choice,
  As holy children do;
Then while I seek Him with my voice,
  My heart will love Him too.

IV.

God keeps me safe by day and night
  And always does me good!
He'd make me rich if that were right,
  Because we know he could.

But though he chose me to be poor,
  How many things I have;
Although I don't deserve, I'm sure,
  The smallest that he gave.

I should not have a crust of bread
  Without his tender care;
Nor fire to warm me, nor a bed,
  Nor any clothes to wear.

'Tis he that keeps me strong and well,
  While many others die;
And, if they're naughty, go to hell,
  Who are as young as I!

He thinks of what I want, and sends
  The very things I need;
And God it is, who gives me friends,
  And lets me learn to read.

And, more than all the rest, he sent
  Our Saviour down from heaven,
That we might love him, and repent,
  And have our sins forgiven.

V.

Jesus who lived above the sky,
Came down to be a man and die;
And in the Bible we may see
How very good he used to be.

He went about, he was so kind
To cure poor people who were blind,
And many who were sick and lame,
He pitied them, and did the same.

And more than that; he told them too
The things that God would have them do;
And was so gentle and so mild,
He would have listen'd to a child.

But such a cruel death he died,
He was hung up and crucified,
And those kind hands that did such good,
They nail'd them to a cross of wood.

And so he died!—and this is why
He came to be a man and die;
The Bible says, He came from heaven,
That we might have our sins forgiven.

He knew how wicked men had been,
And knew that God must punish sin:
So, out of pity, Jesus said,
He'd bear the punishment instead.

Now God will pardon those who pray,
And hate their sins, and turn away;
But wicked folks, who do not pray,
We know that such he cannot bear.

VI.

To do to others as I would,
  That they should do to me,
Will make me honest, kind and good,
  As children ought to be.

We never need behave amiss,
  Nor feel uncertain long,
As we can always tell by this,
  If things are right or wrong.

I know I should not steal or use
  The smallest thing I see,
Which I should never like to lose,
  If it belonged to me.

And this plain rule forbids me quite,
  To strike an angry blow,
Because I should not think it right,
  If others served me so.

But any kindness they may need
  I'll do, whate'er it be;
As I am very glad indeed
  When they are kind to me.

Whether I am at home, at school,
  Or walking out abroad,
I never should forget this rule,
  Of Jesus Christ the Lord.

FOR A CHILD IN SICKNESS.

VII.

My Father! I am very ill,
  Thou knowest all I feel,
And if it be Thy blessed will,
  Thou canst my sickness heal.

In trouble if I call to Thee,
  Thy holy Word declares
Thou wilt look down, and pity me,
  And listen to my prayers.

Since Jesus pleads for me on high,
  O! take away my pain;
Be very gracious to my cry,
  And make me well again.

VIII.

God is in heaven! can he hear
  A little prayer like mine?
Yes! thoughtful child, thou need'st not fear,
  He listens unto thine.

God is in heaven! can He see
  When I am doing wrong?
Yes, that he can; he looks at thee
  All day, and all night long.

God is in heaven! would he know
  If I should tell a lie?
Yes, though thou saidst it very low,
  He'd hear it in the sky.

God is in heaven! does he care,
  Or is he good to me?
Yes! all thou hast to eat or wear,
  'Tis God that gives it thee.

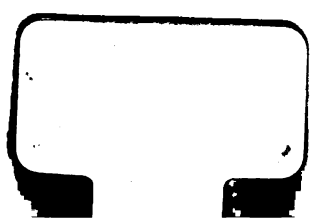
God is in heaven! may I pray
  To go there when I die?
Yes! seek his grace, and then one day
  He'll call thee to the sky.

IX.

Among the deepest shades of night,
  Can there be one who sees my way?
Yes! God is like a shining light,
  That turns the darkness into day.

When every eye around me sleeps,
  May I not sin without control?
No; for a constant watch he keeps
  On every thought of every soul.

If I could find some cave unknown,
  Where human feet had never trod,
Yet there I could not be alone;
  On every side there would be God.

He smiles in heaven, he frowns in hell;
  He fills the earth, the air, the sea:
I must within his presence dwell,
  I cannot from his anger flee.

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